lay down plans and policies for disaster management and coordinate its enforcement.

Operational difficulties faced by BSF due to lack of women battalions

72. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that BSF is facing operational difficulties in militancy infested and border areas due to absence of women's battalions;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the time-frame to overcome these operational difficulties by BSF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. Wherever projected by BSF, Mahila Home Guards have been provided.

(c) Does not arise.

Corruption in jails

73. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officials of Tihar prison in Delhi have been dismissed after they were exposed taking illegal gratification;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that corruption in jails is eliminated and only above board officials are posted in prisons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A news channel "Aaj Tak" in its telecast on 4th and 5th May, 2005 showed certain Prison staff accepting money as illegal gratification as consideration for extending certain unauthorized facilities to various prisoners. Initially, the concerned staff were placed under suspension and criminal cases registered under the

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against them. Subsequently, in exercise of powers under the second proviso (b) to Article 311(2) of the Constitution, the Competent Authority dismissed fifteen prison officials.

(c) The steps taken to eliminate corruption in jails in NCT of Delhi are as follows:—

(a) The jail staff are being frequently rotated at all levels in different jails periodically so as to minimize vested interests.

(b) Senior Jail officers including Superintendent of Jails have been directed to closely monitor all their subordinate staff.

(c) Because of increased surveillance during the year 2005 (till October), 75 departmental cases have been initiated. In 12 cases major penalties were imposed and in 20 cases minor penalties were imposed on jail officials.

(d) The service records of all the staff are being scrutinized to ascertain persons of doubtful integrity.

(e) In-service training and refresher courses are being organized separately to sensitize staff on the legal provisions of the Delhi Prison Act, 2000 and Delhi Jail Manual.

(f) The Director-General (Prisons) has established a petition box to receive petitions from prisoners which are investigated by senior officers at Prison Headquarters.

(g) Each Jail has a designated visiting Judge who visit periodically and the petition box is scrutinized by the Judge.

(h) Each Jail is also visited by the designated Additional District Magistrate to look into the security aspects.

Replacement of Indian Police Act

74. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to replace the Indian Police Act envisaging to meet and manage emerging areas of crime; if so, the details thereof;